GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4329
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Mining Projects in Forests
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of forests under mining projects in the country at present;
(b) whether the Government is aware of the report by Forest Survey of India (FSI) in August, 2016, stating that mining should be barred in 40% of India's forests;
(c) whether the Government has adopted a new comprehensive policy to identify and protect 'inviolate forests' post the Supreme Court judgement cancelling licenses of 204 coal blocks in September, 2014;
(d) whether the Government use the same parameters as FSI for approving projects and if not, the reason therefore;
(e) whether the Government's parameters for 'inviolate forests' has changed since 2014;
(f) whether the said parameters still include measuring forest cover, forest type, landscape integrity, biological richness, wildlife value and hydrological importance; and
(g) if not, whether the parameters have been diluted to acess more resources for development and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Approximately, 134156 Ha. forest land has been diverted for mining purpose since 1980 which is about 0.18% of total recorded forest area of the country.

(b) & (c) No Sir.

(d)A web based decision support system developed by FSI is also utilized while considering the proposals in the Ministry.

(e), (f) & (g) Information on forest cover, forest type, landscape integrity, biological richness, wildlife and hydrological importance is integral part of decision support system developed by FSI.

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